GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4627
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS IN TIHAR JAIL
JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in `The Times of India` dated 15.01.2002 that Tihar jail authorities appear to be losing out to smart inmates who are smuggling drugs into their barracks with impunity;

(b) whether on an average eight per cent of the new inmates brought to the jail are drug addicts;

(c) whether the police have shown helplessness in checking the smuggling of contraband in the jail; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Of the 11,445 prisoners including undertrials lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar as on 17th April, 2002, about 10% were reported to be drug addicts.

(c)&(d): A large number of prisoners are visited by their relatives, friends etc. every day which gives them an opportunity to bring prohibited items concealed in eatables and in their body orifices. However, the Jail Administration has taken several steps to curb such activities. These include thorough searching and frisking of the prisoners, staff and visitors before entering and leaving the jail premises; conducting of surprise searches under the supervision of senior officers; and enhanced vigilance inside the wards, specially the high security wards, etc.